

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Joachim SCHICKE

Appl. No. Not Yet Assigned

Confirmation No.

Filed: January 8, 2002

Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Atty. Docket No.: 31512-176923

For: METHOD OF AND APPARATUS
FOR REPLACING CUTTING
IMPLEMENT IN SEVERING
MACHINES

Customer No.



26694

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Preliminary Amendment

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please amend claim 1 to read as follows:

1. (amended) A method of replacing a first knife, which is locked in the knife holder of a severing unit that is operative to sever smoker's products, with a second knife, comprising the steps of:

- automatically unlocking the first knife;
- removing the first knife from the holder; and
- introducing the second knife into the holder.

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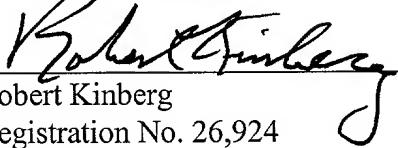
REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is made to revise claim 1 to clarify the subject matter which applicant regards as his invention.

Date:

1/8/02

Respectfully submitted,


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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

1. A method of replacing a[n at least partially spent] first knife, which is locked in the knife holder of a severing unit that is operative to sever smokers' products, with a second knife, comprising the steps of:

automatically unlocking the first knife;
removing the first knife from the holder; and
introducing the second knife into the holder.